

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-12 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 9, and 10 are allowed. Claims 3, 4, 7, 8, 11, and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. patent 6,005,612 to Kikuchi et al. (herein "Kikuchi") in view of U.S. patent 6,512,549 to Iijima et al. (herein "Iijima").

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the allowance of claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 9, and 10.

Applicants and applicants' representative also wish to thank Examiner Tillery for the interview granted applicants' representative on June 8, 2004. During that interview the outstanding rejections were discussed in detail. Further, during the interview claim amendments were discussed to clarify claim features over the applied art. The present response sets forth the discussed claim amendments. During the interview the Examiners indicated that such claim amendments appear to distinguish the claims over the applied art. The Examiners indicated they would further consider such claim amendments when formally presented in a filed response.

Addressing now the rejection of claims 3, 4, 7, 8, 11, and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Kikuchi in view of Iijima, that rejection is traversed by the present response.

It is initially noted that each of independent claims 3, 7, and 11 is amended by the present response to clarify a feature recited therein. Specifically, those claims now clarify that a recording pixel number setting operation operates for "directly setting a number of recording pixels of said image pickup from among a plurality of predetermined numbers of recording pixels". That subject matter is believed to be self-evident from the original disclosure, for example at page 9, lines 10-13, in which it is noted that the operating section 123 has keys for setting a number of recording pixels, and see also the present specification

in Figures 11 and 12 showing that the specific value of pixels can be set, for example, at 1800 X 1200, 900 X 600, and 640 X 480.

In the invention noted in the above-noted claims, a user can directly set a number of recording pixels for an image pickup device, such as a CCD.

Such a feature clarified in the claims is believed to clarify the above-noted claims over the applied art.

The basis for the outstanding rejection appears at least in part to be based on the position that the above-noted feature clarified in the claims was not previously clearly recited in the claims. Specifically, the outstanding Office Action states “[a]pplicant is not claiming that the number of recording pixels of a CCD is set differently. Nor is Applicant claiming that a number of pixels could be changed to one of several preset (or predetermined) number of pixels”.¹

In response to that basis for maintaining the outstanding rejection, applicants note that the claims now clarify that a number of pixels is set based on different initially preset pixel numbers of pixels, and such subject matter is believed to be fully supported by the original specification as noted above.

The outstanding rejection appears to rely on the teachings in Kikuchi with respect to operating in two modes, a normal mode and a quadruplication mode, as meeting the feature of setting a number of recording pixels of an image pickup device. However, it is respectfully submitted that such teachings in Kikuchi do not meet the features clarified in the claims.

First, Kikuchi clearly does not disclose or suggest any operation in which a number of pixels of an image pickup device can be directly set from among a plurality of predetermined numbers of recording pixels. At most Kikuchi discloses selecting two different modes, but

¹ Office action of May 5, 2004, page 2, lines 13-16.

selecting such a mode does not directly set a number of recording pixels of an image pickup device from among a plurality of predetermined numbers of recording pixels.

In the non-limiting example provided in the present specification, a number of pixels for a CCD is directly set from among a plurality of predetermined numbers of recording pixels, for example at 1800 X 1200, 900 X 600, and 640 X 480. Kikuchi does not appear to teach or suggest any type of similar operation.

Further, Kikuchi does not appear to teach or suggest that even in the two different modes disclosed therein, namely the normal mode and the quadruplication mode, the number of recording pixels of an image pickup device is set differently from among a plurality of predetermined numbers of recording pixels. Kikuchi does not appear to specifically indicate the number of pixels set in the normal mode, and Kikuchi merely notes that in the quadruplication mode each of four images can be displayed with 297 pixels and 164 lines.² However, Kikuchi does not compare that setting with the setting of pixels of an image pickup device in a normal mode.

In such ways, Kikuchi does not appear to disclose or suggest any operation of changing a number of pixels of an image pickup device in the two noted modes. Also as noted above, Kikuchi does not disclose any direct setting of the number of pixels of an image pickup device.

Moreover, no teachings in Iijima can overcome the above-noted of Kikuchi with respect to the above-noted claim features.

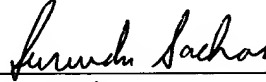
In such ways, each of independent claims 3, 7, and 11, and each of respective claims 4, 8, and 12 dependent therefrom, is believed to distinguish over the applied art to Kikuchi in view of Iijima, and thus those claims are also believed to be allowable.

² Kikuchi at column 16, line 53 et seq.

As no other issues are pending in this application it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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